

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS COMMENTS ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, TURKISH EDITORIALS HAVE CRITICIZED THE STANDS OF BOTH SIDES IN CYPRUS.
2. ON AUGUST 24, ABDI IPEKCI IN MODERATE MILLIYET POINTED OUT THAT ACTIONS PUBLICLY THREATENED BY TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION WERE GIVEN MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR WOULD FAIL TO ADVANCE THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS' CAUSE. HERECOMMENDED INSTEAD A STRONG INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE TURKEY'S CASE ON THE ISSUE OF RECOGNITION.

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3. ON AUGUST 25, TWO WRITERS COMMENTED ON GREEK CYPRIOT PLANS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

A. ALI SIRMEN IN ANTI-US CUMHURIYET OBSERVED THAT WHATEVER RESOLUTIONS THE GREEK CYPRIOTS MAY WIN IN THEIR FAVOR AT THE UN, THE NET RESULT WILL BE NO GAIN FOR THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND,

SINCE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS CAN COUNT ON THE US TO MAINTAIN ITS ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY, TO WIN NOTHING AT THE UN WOULD BE "NO GREAT LOSS" FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.

B. ONE OF TURKEY'S BEST JOURNALISTS, SAMI KOHEN, COMMENTED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE BEGUN TAKING A MORE RIGID ATTITUDE AND THAT THE CHANCES OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS AND REACHING A SETTLEMENT ARE WEAKER THAN BEFORE MAKARIOS' DEATH. AT THE SAME TIME, THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP IS PREPARING TO RESORT TO NEW MEASURES PERHAPS INCLUDING UDI, WHILE FOREIGN COUNTRIES OPPOSE THEM. THE FIGHT FOR MAKARIOS' LEGACY HAS SUBSIDED BUT WILL FLARE UP IN FEBRUARY. MEANWHILE, KYPRIANOU HAS MADE CLEAR THAT INSTEAD OF HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS, HE WILL TRY TO USE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO "BRING TURKEY TO ITS KNEES." THESE METHODS WERE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS IN THE PAST, AND A FRESH RESORT TO THEM WILL ONLY WORSEN THE SITUATION AND LEAD TO A VICIOUS CIRCLE. AS FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, DENKTASH IS AWARE THAT THE MEASURES HE IS CONTEMPLATING WILL CAUSE A SERIOUS REACTION AND LEAD TO FURTHER PRESSURE AND ISOLATION, BUT HE IS ACTING OUT OF HOPELESSNESS, ASKING "AREN'T WE ALREADY ISOLATED AND UNDER PRESSURE"? THERE IS HOPELESSNESS ON BOTH SIDES IN CYPRUS. BUT "WILL HOPE EMERGE AT THE MOST HOPELESS TIME"? SPIERS

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